

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 1270 – SB 1372

March 26, 2015

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Expands the list of “crimes” for which victims are immune from civil liability when testifying against an offender at a parole hearing to include victims of domestic assault; vandalism and false imprisonment when the victim is a domestic abuse victim; a violation of an order of protection or restraining order; and stalking.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004756): Deletes all language after the enacting clause.

Broadens the Victims’ Bill of Rights in Title 40, Chapter 38, Part 1 to include victims of domestic assault, violations of orders of protection or restraining orders, stalking, and domestic victims of vandalism and false imprisonment entitling them to notification of all proceedings and of the release, transfer, or escape of the accused or convicted person.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

**Increase State Expenditures – \$158,400/One-Time
\$1,767,100/Recurring**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Victims are notified and kept informed by victim witness coordinators. The District Attorneys General Conference (DAGC) employs victim witness coordinators to meet the requirements of the Victims’ Bill of Rights.
- The DAGC reports that in 2014 Shelby County disposed of approximately 4,900 domestic violence cases involving an intimate partner.
- As Shelby County is the largest county in the State, it is assumed that Shelby County handles more domestic violence cases than any county in the State.
- There are 94 other counties in the State. Therefore, it is assumed that there are no less than 10,000 domestic violence matters disposed of each year in the State.
- The bill would result in no less than 10,000 additional victims being entitled to notification of every proceeding in those 10,000 cases.
- The DAGC will need additional victim witness coordinators to handle the increased workload.

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- The DAGC reports that it will need 36 new victim witness coordinators.
- The victim witness coordinators will be hired at a salary of \$32,124. Each victim witness coordinator will also incur expenses for travel, professional services, supplies, rentals, and interagency charges.
- Each victim witness coordinator will increase recurring expenditures by \$49,085 [$\$32,124$ salary + $(\$32,124 \times 0.1503)$ benefits + $(\$32,124 \times 0.0765)$ FICA + $\$6,325.56$ insurance + $\$500$ travel + $\$300$ professional services + $\$500$ supplies + $\$2,000$ rentals + $\$50$ interagency charges]. The increase for 36 victim witness coordinators is $\$1,767,060$ ($\$49,085 \times 36$).
- Each victim witness coordinator will require one-time $\$4,400$ expenditure for equipment. The one-time expenditures for 36 victim witness coordinators are $\$158,400$ ($\$4,400 \times 36$).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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